

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee
held on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7:30pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Councillors present: Cllr Danny Bonnett (Chair)

Cllr Chris Bloor

Cllr Christine Carter

Cllr Chris Davies

Cllr Fiona Deas

Cllr Gil Gilroy

Cllr Chris Rowe

Cllr Chris Woodhouse

Officers present: Wendy Sydenham (Deputy Clerk)

Councillors absent: None

OS2526.69 TO CONSIDER ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence offered. It was noted that since the last meeting of the Committee, Cllr Emma Shepherd, Cllr Phil O'Rourke and Cllr James Murray had resigned as Councillors and were therefore no longer Committee members.

OS2526.61 TO RECEIVE ANY MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no members' declarations of interest.

OS2526.62 TO RECEIVE ANY REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no members of the public present.

OS2526.63 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2025

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2025, and they were signed by the Chair.

OS2526.64 TO CONSIDER A REPORT ON UNWANTED VEHICLE ACCESS ONTO OAKLEAZE GREEN

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to ask officers to investigate options for steepening the existing slope on the Oakleaze Road side of Oakleaze Green, and planting a low hedge at the bottom of the slope. Officers should bring this information back to Committee for further consideration at a future meeting.

OS2526.65 TO CONSIDER A CONDITION SURVEY CARRIED OUT BY OFFICERS ON THE EXISTING TENNIS COURT FENCING

In light of the findings set out in the condition survey report on the existing tennis court fencing, the following was unanimously **RESOLVED**:

- To proceed with a full replacement of the fencing.
- To proceed with the contractor who had provided the least expensive quote, Courtstall Services Ltd, at £17,990 + VAT (assuming the special winter rate was still available, £20,280 + VAT if not), with funding to come from 130/4430 (Open Spaces/Tennis Courts), with additional funding from EMR 351 (Tennis Court Maintenance) as required.
- In light of previous experience of corrosion to the ends of fencing posts where they went into concrete bases, the contractor for the new fencing should be asked for information on the guarantee offered on their posts, estimated lifespan and whether any additional treatments could be applied to reduce the risk of this happening again.

OS2526.66 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE SGC STREAMSIDE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, SPECIFICALLY THE FORMATION OF A WORKING GROUP BY SGC WHICH WILL REPORT/RECOMMEND DIRECTLY TO FULL COUNCIL

The Committee noted that the method by which recommendations relating to this project would be made to Full Council had changed from that which was resolved at the last Committee meeting. Rather than working through Committees, SGC had set up a working group including representatives from the Open Spaces Committee and Climate & Nature Committee, and this working group would make recommendations directly to Full Council in March.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that Cllr Chris Woodhouse would take the place of ex-Councillor James Murray on the working group, as an Open Spaces Committee representative, following his resignation as a Councillor. It was noted that this would have to be confirmed or ratified at a future Full Council meeting.

OS2526.67 TO CONSIDER MATTERS RELATING TO THE INSTALLATION OF A MUGA AT THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS

- **To receive a verbal update on the project and note the location of the MUGA approved by SGC Planning Department**

The Committee noted that planning permission had been granted by the Planning Department, with some conditions to be discharged. Officers were working on the conditions, but this could affect the timescales for work starting on the MUGA. The final location of the MUGA was noted, as per the diagram circulated with the meeting papers.

- **To agree to proceed via an electronic tender process**

It was **RESOLVED** by majority vote to proceed to go out to tender, using an electronic tendering process.

- **To agree a provisional project timetable**

The draft project timetable circulated with the meeting papers was noted. It was also noted that discharging of planning conditions could take at least eight weeks, from receipt of the documents by SGC, either from the Town Council or the appointed contractor. In light of this, it was **RESOLVED** by majority vote that the end dates of the project timetable should be extended/more flexible. The desired project completion date would remain as mid-July 2026, but this could be extended to the beginning of Autumn 2026 if circumstances dictated.

- **To agree to delegate authority to officers to produce tender documents, in line with the design elements already agreed by Committee on 26.11.25 and incorporating any adjustments agreed at subsequent meetings**

It was RESOLVED by majority vote to delegate authority to officers to produce tender documents, in line with the design elements already agreed by Committee on 26.11.25 and incorporating any adjustments agreed at subsequent meetings. It was further RESOLVED by majority vote to request within the specification that responses include details on guarantees and expected lifespan for fencing posts, and whether any additional treatments could be applied to reduce the risk of corrosion at the point they enter into the concrete base.

- **To agree to delegate authority to officers to make arrangements outside of formal Committee meetings for tender opening and tender interviews**

It was RESOLVED by majority vote to delegate authority to officers to make arrangements outside of formal Committee meetings for tender opening and tender interviews.

OS2526.68 IN RELATION TO THE REFURBISHMENT OF STREAMLEAZE PLAY AREA, TO AGREE PARTICIPANTS AND TIMINGS FOR TENDER OPENING AND TENDER INTERVIEWS

It was noted that the tender opening was now likely to be on 26.02.26 and the interviews on 09.03.26. It was RESOLVED unanimously that Cllr Chris Bloor would participate in the opening and the interviews, with Cllr Fiona Deas as the backup should he not be available.

OS2526.69 TO NOTE THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE COMMITMENTS MADE IN RELATION TO THE MUNDY PLAYING FIELDS, REQUIRED TO MEET BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN CONDITIONS FOR SECURING PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE MUGA AND FOR THE NEW STORAGE FACILITIES

The Committee noted the grounds maintenance commitments made in relation to the Mundy Playing Fields, required to meeting biodiversity net gain conditions for securing planning permission for the MUGA and for the new storage facilities, as set out in the diagrams circulated with the meeting papers.

OS2526.70 TO CONFIRM THE ORDER FOR HANGING BASKETS FOR 2026

It was RESOLVED unanimously to order the filling of 36 hanging baskets for Summer 2026 at the cost of £1368 to be funded from 130/4555 (Open Spaces/Hanging Basket Service).

OS2526.71 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PROGRESS AGAINST ACTIONS FROM THE MOST RECENT ROSPA PLAY AREAS INSPECTION REPORT

The Committee noted progress against actions from the most recent RoSPA play areas inspection report, as detail in the summary document circulated with the meeting papers. It was further noted that the next inspection would take place in Spring/Summer 2026.

OS2526.72 TO NOTE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ITEMS TO THE DEPUTY CLERK FOR INCLUSION IN THE NEXT AGENDA IS WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH 2026

The deadline for submission of items to the Deputy Clerk for inclusion in the next agenda was noted to be Wednesday 4 March 2026.

OS2526.73 TO NOTE THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

The date of the next meeting was noted to be Tuesday 17 March 2026.

The meeting closed at 20.35.

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